

## CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. In an electronic conferencing system wherein data is shared between a plurality  
2 of participants during an electronic conference, a method of preventing domination of a  
3 CPU by background transfers of teleconference object data among the plurality of  
4 participants, the method comprising the steps of:

5           a) monitoring an external time spent by the CPU executing outside a background  
6 transfer manager; and

7           b) transferring a data packet of teleconference object data to one or more of the  
8 plurality of participants of the electronic conference if the external time is larger than a  
9 minimum threshold and smaller than a maximum threshold.

1           2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of

2           c) monitoring an internal time spent by the CPU executing inside the background  
3 transfer manager;

4           and wherein the minimum threshold is the internal time plus a variable offset.

1           3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

2           d) increasing the variable offset if the external time is less than the internal time.

1           4. The method of claim 3 wherein the maximum threshold is a predetermined delay  
2 plus the variable offset.

1           5. The method of claim 4 wherein the predetermined delay is related to an average  
2 frequency of servicing of the background transfer manager.

1           6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:  
2           e) increasing the variable offset if the external time is greater than the  
3 predetermined delay plus the variable offset.

1           7. The method of claim 6 wherein increasing the variable offset in the steps d) and  
2 e) is performed by raising the offset by a first amount for a first number of times that the  
3 variable offset is raised and raising the variable offset by a second amount for a second  
4 number of times that the variable offset is raised, wherein the first amount is different  
5 from the second amount.

1           8. The method of claim 7 wherein increasing the variable offset in the steps d) and  
2 e) is performed by clamping the variable offset at a predetermined maximum.

1           9 The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of:  
2           f) reducing the variable offset after each step of transferring the data packet of the  
3 teleconference object data to the one or more of the plurality of participants.

1           10. The method of claim 1 wherein the teleconference object data is a binary large  
2 object (BLOB).

1 11. In an electronic conferencing system wherein data is shared between a plurality  
2 of participants during an electronic conference, an apparatus for preventing domination of  
3 a CPU by background transfers of teleconference object data among the plurality of  
4 participants, the apparatus comprising:

5 a) means for monitoring an external time spent by the CPU executing outside a  
6 background transfer manager; and

7 b) means for transferring a data packet of teleconference object data to one or more  
8 of the plurality of participants of the electronic conference if the external time is larger  
9 than a minimum threshold and smaller than a maximum threshold.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising:

2 c) means for monitoring an internal time spent by the CPU executing inside the  
3 background transfer manager;

4 and wherein the minimum threshold is the internal time plus a variable offset.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the maximum threshold is a predetermined  
2 delay plus the variable offset.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the predetermined delay is related to an  
2 average frequency of servicing of the background transfer manager.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:

2 e) means for increasing the variable offset if the external time is greater than the  
3 predetermined delay plus the variable offset.

1           16 The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:  
2           f) means for reducing the variable offset after each step of transferring the data  
3 packet of the teleconference object data to the one or more of the plurality of participants.

1           17. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the teleconference object data is a binary  
2 large object (BLOB).

1           18. In an electronic conferencing system wherein data is shared between a plurality  
2 of participants during an electronic conference, an apparatus for preventing domination of  
3 a CPU by background transfers of teleconference object data among the plurality of  
4 participants, the apparatus comprising:

5           a) a first timer for monitoring an external time spent by the CPU executing outside a  
6 background transfer manager; and

7           b) a transmission circuit for transferring a data packet of teleconference object data  
8 to one or more of the plurality of participants of the electronic conference if the external  
9 time is larger than a minimum threshold and smaller than a maximum threshold.

1           19. The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

2           c) a second timer for monitoring an internal time spent by the CPU executing inside  
3 the background transfer manager;

4           and wherein the minimum threshold is the internal time plus a variable offset.

1           20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the maximum threshold is a predetermined  
2 delay plus the variable offset.

1           21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the predetermined delay is related to an  
2 average frequency of servicing of the background transfer manager.

1           22. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

2           e) a delay circuit for increasing the variable offset if the external time is greater than  
3 the predetermined delay plus the variable offset.

1           23. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the teleconference object data is a binary  
2 large object (BLOB).

1           24. An electronic conferencing system comprising:

2           two or more computer systems networked together via a communication medium,  
3 each of the computer systems including a communications manager for communicating  
4 via the communication medium, each of the computer systems running an application  
5 which shares object data among the two or more computer systems, each of the  
6 applications having a background transfer manager which prevents domination by  
7 background activities of a CPU of each of the computer systems.

- 1           25. An system comprising:
- 2           a processor capable of running foreground activities and background activities;
- 3           a commiunications manager for communicating to one or more other systems via a
- 4           communication medim; and
- 5           a background transfer manager for transferring as one of the background activities
- 6           data to the one of more other systems via the communications manager, the background
- 7           transfer manager preventing domination of the processor by the background activities.

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